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Some \$3.50 ones at \$3.00

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PHONE 231-2

## FROM OUR EXCHANGES

Wilmington Dispatch: Our only surprise that but eight of the Kansas legislators know the Lord's prayer is over the number being that large.

Shelby Highlander: Who will say that Shelby dirt near the Court Square or Plaza is not valuable, when a 25 foot lot on South LaFayette street brought \$150 per front foot, or \$3750 total?

Mooresville Enterprise: The copious rains during the past few days finds the industrious farmer well prepared for a wet season. It is said that more land has been ploughed up to this time than in many, many years.

Atlanta Journal: It was quite natural that Lord Decies and his bride should come to Georgia for part of their honeymoon. While we have no lords in our midst, we have several millionaires who live like lords.

Charlotte Observer: A portrait of Sidney Lanier painted by Miss Mattie Dowd has been purchased for the new high school building in Montgomery, Ala. The school is named in honor of Sidney Lanier and was formally opened a few days ago. The portrait which was placed on exhibition for the occasion is a life-size bust done in oil.

Canton Vindicator: Mr. Frank Smathers of Waynesville, son of Dr. B. F. Smathers, has been appointed District Judge of New Jersey at a salary of \$5,000. This is indeed an honor to young Mr. Smathers he being only 28 years old. His many friends throughout Western North Carolina will be glad to hear of his good fortune.

Rockingham Post: The Holt property on Washington street was sold Monday at public auction by the Morrison Land Co. The property has a 22 foot front and extends back to the street in the rear. It brought \$9,950 or a little over \$452 per front foot. This price is exceptionally high and shows what real estate is worth in a good live town.

Atlanta Constitution: "George Boykin," a 15-year-old rattlesnake, who had basked, discontented, in the laboratory of Dr. H. F. Harris, secretary of the state board of health since last spring, was found dead yesterday morning. The snake had refused food persistently since brought in captivity from its native home in Franklin county, North Carolina, and literally committed suicide by starving to death. It has been consigned to a jar of alcohol.

Spring Hope Leader: It is a shame to see so many of our farmers buying and hauling to the farms great quantities of feed-stuff when this produce could and should be raised where it is consumed. The farmers of Nash county will never be their own until they learn to raise their own supplies on the farm. It is very important that their smokehouses and barns should not be too far from home, otherwise their pocket books will go hungry.

Laurinburg Exchange: Last Saturday was trade day in Laurinburg and a host of horse traders, both white and colored, thronged the back lots and alleys of the town. Much whiskey was drunk, many plug mules and horses were exchanged and at least one fight was pulled off. This was engaged in by Dorsey Boahn, a white horse trader, and Sell Griffin, a negro, as principals with a few other participating to a greater or less extent. As a result of the row, Boahn bears the marks of the negro's knife, while the negro escaped unhurt.

### 3,000,000 Pounds of Butter Are Sent to Markets of Europe by Many Cold Storage Dealers.

According to a statement made recently by C. M. Drake, president of the Philadelphia Produce exchange, speculators in second grade butter in New York and Chicago have been unable to find a market for all of their cold storage holdings and will be compelled to ship 3,000,000 pounds of the product to Europe to save themselves from absolute loss.

Mr. Drake said one large speculator in Chicago would lose about \$350,000 on 70,000 tubs of higher grade butter. The speculators, Mr. Drake said, purchased it last spring for 31 and 32 cents a pound, put it in storage and today is selling it at an average wholesale price, 25c. a pound.

### SHAKING THE OPIUM HABIT

Wherein China Has Shown a Good Example to America—Other Signs of Awakening in the Celestial Empire.

Clarence Poe's Letter From China to Progressive Farmer.

To shake off the opium habit when once it has gripped a man, is no easy task—officials right here in Peking, for example, died as a result of stopping too suddenly after the edict came out announcing that no opium victim could remain in public service—but a member of the Emperor's council told me this afternoon that 95 per cent of the public officials who were formerly opium smokers have given up the habit, or have been dismissed from office. Five per cent may smoke in secret, but with the certainty of dismissal as the penalty of discovery, it may be assumed that even these few are breaking themselves from the habit.

Not only have drastic measures been taken with regard to the sale and use of opium, but the earnestness of the people has been strikingly illustrated in the great financial sacrifices made by farmers and land-owners in sections where the opium poppy was formerly grown. The culture of the poppy in some sections was far more profitable than that of any other crop; moreover, it was the "money crop" of the people, just as cotton is in the South. In fact, to stop growing the opium poppy has meant in some cases a decrease of 75 per cent. in the profit and value of the land. Farms mortgaged on the basis of old land values, therefore, had to be sold; peasants who had been home owners became homeless. And yet China has thought no price too great to pay in the effort to free herself from this form of intemperance. Well may her leading men proudly declare, as one did to me today: "While America dares not undertake the task of stopping the whiskey curse among less than a hundred million people, we are stopping the opium curse among four hundred millions." It should also be observed that there is little drunkenness over here. At a dinner party Friday evening my hostess thought it worth while to mention as a matter of general interest to her guest (so rare is the occurrence) that she had seen a drunken Chinaman that day. I have not seen one.

China is waking up, and I am glad she is. She is going into industrial competition with all the world, and I am glad that she is. I believe that every strong and worthy nation is enriched by the proper development of every other nation. But in this coming struggle the people whom vice or dissipation has rendered weak, sooner or later, must go down before the men who, gaining the mastery over every vicious habit, keep their bodies strong and their minds clear. In thunder tones indeed does China's victory over opium speak to America. If we are to maintain our high place among the nations of the earth, if we are to keep our leadership in wealth and industry, we can do it only by freeing ourselves, as heroically as the yellow man of the Orient is doing in this respect, from every enervating influence that now weakens the physical stamina, blunts the moral sense, or befogs the brain.

The new China is devoting itself to a number of other reforms, to which the people of the South and America generally may well give attention. The curse of graft among her public officials ("squeeze" it is called over here) is one of the most deep-rooted cancers with which she had to contend. Officers have been paid small salaries and have been allowed to make up for the meagerness of their stipends by exacting all sorts of fees and tips. Before the coming Parliament is very old, however, it will doubtless undertake to do away with the fee and "squeeze" system, stop grafting and put all the more important officers on a strict salary basis. Under the old fee system of paying county and city officials in the South, as my readers know, we have often let enormous sums go into office-holders' pockets when they should have gone into improving our roads and schools. The Chinese system not only has this weakness, but by reason of the fact that the fees are regularly fixed by law as with us the way is opened for numberless other abuses.

FOR SALE—One second hand Nissen two horse wagon. The wagon is in good condition and can be bought at a bargain. A. J. Gibbs Blacksmith shop.

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